



Hello and Welcome to Ireland!

We would like to express our sorrow at the current distressing circumstances in Ukraine, and we are glad that you are now safe in Ireland.

As you know, Covid-19 continues to be a problem for all countries and this letter is to update you on the situation in Ireland and to offer you support to protect yourself and your family from Covid-19.

The Omicron variant of Covid-19 is circulating widely in Ireland at this time, with thousands of cases daily. There is a very high level of vaccine uptake in Ireland. 85% of the eligible population (those aged 5 years and over) have been vaccinated. Over 95% of the adult (aged over 18 years) have been vaccinated.

Our experience of Covid vaccines is that they are safe and very effective at preventing severe illness and death from covid-19. Side effects from the vaccine are mainly mild. Serious side effects of covid-19 disease in unvaccinated people can be very severe and in some cases long lasting. Vaccinations will be made available to you quickly over the coming days/weeks. We strongly advise availing of vaccination.

For those living in settings where they are sharing accommodation with large numbers of other people (e.g. hotels, hostels etc.) we also advise the wearing of face masks in shared and crowded spaces and frequent hand sanitising with the gel provided.

If you develop symptoms of cold or flu-like illness you must isolate in your room and get tested for covid-19.

It is in all our interests to avoid outbreaks of Covid-19, especially when living in large groups.

We hope you have a good experience during your time in Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

HSE Public Health